

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/761,308

Examiner

Belix M. Ortiz

Applicant(s)

GOGUEN, TRISTAN

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amended claims after final filed on 9/14/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/13/07
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
CHARLES RONES

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose, make obvious, or otherwise suggest the structure of the applicant's prediction program, prediction apparatus, and prediction method together with the other limitations of the independent claims.

The dependent claims being further limiting and definite are also allowable. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Etienne de Villiers on December 13, 2007.

#### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, 13-14 and 16 has been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

#### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) a system for selectively blocking email messages sent by a sender over a communications network to a recipient without requiring prior communication between the sender and the recipient, comprising:

a recipient message handler for receiving email messages from senders,

at least one recipient permitted sender database (PSD) for storing sender information associated with senders authorized by the recipient,

at least one recipient group Permitted Sender Database (PSD) for storing sender information associated with senders authorized by at least one members of a recipient group of which the recipient is a member, and

... whereby the decision to forward the email message is determined by the sender having been authorized by either the recipient or the at least one member of the recipient group of which the recipient is a member.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein in step d- the sender information comprises a sender email address.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein in step d- sender information comprises a sender message handler Internet Protocol (IP) address.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including after step d- when sender information in an email message sent by a sender does not match corresponding information stored in the recipient PSD or the recipient group PSD the email message is held for a preset hold interval and a message is sent to the sender with directions for completing a permission request form for submission to the recipient.

**Reasons for Allowance**

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior arts of records, neither anticipates nor renders obvious the following limitations as claimed:

As to claims 1 and 11, the prior art of records fail to anticipate or suggest at least one recipient permitted sender database (PSD) for storing sender information associated with senders authorized by the recipient,

at least one recipient group Permitted Sender Database (PSD) for storing sender information associated with senders authorized by at least one members of a recipient group of which the recipient is a member, and

a validation processor for determining whether an email message sent by the sender is authorized by comparing sender information in the email message received from a sender with corresponding sender information stored in the recipient PSD and the recipient group PSD, and, forwarding or making accessible the email message to the recipient if the sender information matches the corresponding sender information stored in the recipient PSD or the recipient group PSD, or if the sender information does not match the sender information stored in the recipient PSD and the recipient group PSD, the email message is not forwarded,

whereby the decision to forward the email message is determined by the sender having been authorized by either the recipient or the at least one member of the

recipient group of 'which the recipient is a member, together with the other limitations of the dependent claims.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Belix M. Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-4081.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

bmo

December 12, 2007

  
CHARLES RONES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER